



POLICY	MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE
DATE	February 2026
CONSULTATION	School leadership, staff and School Council
APPROVED BY	Principal
REVIEW DATE	February 2030



Help for non-English speakers

If you need help to understand the information in this policy please contact blackburn.els@education.vic.gov.au or 9803 4022

PURPOSE

To explain to our school community the Department’s and Blackburn English Language School’s policy requirements and expectations relating to students using mobile phones and other personal mobile devices such as smart watches and iPads during school hours.

SCOPE

This policy applies to:

1. All students at Blackburn English Language School and students’ personal mobile phones and other personal mobile devices brought onto school premises during school hours, including recess and lunchtime.

DEFINITIONS

A mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network.

POLICY

Blackburn English Language School understands that students may bring a personal mobile phone or other personal mobile device to school, particularly if they are travelling independently to and from school.

At Blackburn English Language School

- Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school must have them switched off and securely stored during school hours
- Exceptions to this policy may be applied if certain conditions are met (see below for further information)
- When emergencies occur, parents or carers should reach their child by calling the school’s office.

Personal mobile phone use

In accordance with the Department’s [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) issued by the Minister for Education, personal mobile phones must not be used at Blackburn English Language School during school hours, including lunchtime and recess, unless an exception has been granted.

Where a student has been granted an exception, the student must use their mobile phone for the purpose for which the exception was granted, and in a safe, ethical and responsible manner.

Secure storage

Mobile phones and other personal mobile devices owned by students at Blackburn English Language School are considered valuable items and are brought to school at the owner's (student's or parent/carer's) risk. Students are encouraged not to bring a mobile phone to school unless there is a compelling reason to do so. Please note that Blackburn English Language School does not have accident insurance for accidental property damage or theft. Students and their parents/carers are encouraged to obtain appropriate insurance for valuable items. Refer to Blackburn English Language School's Personal Property Policy AND/OR the Department's [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

Where students bring a mobile phone to school, Blackburn English Language School will provide secure storage. Secure storage is storage that cannot be readily accessed by those without permission to do so. At Blackburn English Language School students are required to store their phones in:

- Secondary student's locker
- In a locked space in a primary classroom
- At reception

Enforcement

Students who use their personal mobile phones or other personal mobile device inappropriately at Blackburn English Language School may be issued with consequences consistent with our school's existing student engagement policies.

At Blackburn English Language School inappropriate use of mobile phones is **any use during school hours**, unless an exception has been granted, and particularly use of a mobile phone:

- in any way that disrupts the learning of others
- to send inappropriate, harassing or threatening messages or phone calls
- to engage in inappropriate social media use including cyber bullying
- to capture video or images of people, including students, teachers and members of the school community without their permission
- to capture video or images in the school toilets, changing rooms, swimming pools and gyms
- during exams and assessments

Exceptions

Exceptions to the policy:

- may be applied during school hours if certain conditions are met, specifically,
 - Health and wellbeing-related exceptions; and
 - Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite.
- can be granted by the Principal, or by the teacher for that class, in accordance with the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#).

The three categories of exceptions allowed under the Department's [Mobile Phones — Student Use Policy](#) are:

1. Learning-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
For specific learning activities (class-based exception)	City Experience excursions
For students for whom a reasonable adjustment to a learning program is needed because of a disability or learning difficulty	Individual Learning Plan, Individual Education Plans

2. Health and wellbeing-related exceptions

Specific exception	Documentation
Students with a health condition	Student Health Support Plans
Students who are Young Carers	n/a

3. Exceptions related to managing risk when students are offsite

Specific exception	Documentation
Travelling to and from excursions	Risk assessment planning documentation
Students on excursions and camps	Risk assessment planning documentation
When students are offsite (not on school grounds) and unsupervised with parental permission	Risk assessment planning documentation

Where an exception is granted, the student can only use the mobile phone for the purpose for which it was granted.

Camps, excursions and extracurricular activities

Blackburn English Language School will provide students and their parents and carers with information about items that can or cannot be brought to excursions, special activities and events, including personal mobile phones.

COMMUNICATION

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following ways:

- Available publicly on our school's website
- Available on Compass
- Discussed at staff briefings/meetings
- Discussed at parent information sessions
- Hard copy available from school administration upon request

RELATED POLICIES AND RESOURCES

- See school's relevant policies e.g. *Student Wellbeing and Engagement, Code of Conduct, Personal Property, Bullying Prevention* <https://www.blackburnels.vic.edu.au/parent-information/#school-policies>
- [Claims for Property Damage and Medical Expenses policy](#)

POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL

POLICY	MOBILE PHONES – STUDENT USE
DATE	February 2026
CONSULTATION	School leadership, staff and School Council
APPROVED BY	Principal
REVIEW DATE	February 2030